CLAIMS

1. A method, comprising:

a collection software module collecting real-time manufacturing data for a first product;

a design-for-manufacturing software module importing design data for a second product;

the design-for-manufacturing software module importing the real-time manufacturing data;

the design-for-manufacturing software module comparing the real-time manufacturing data with the design data; and

the design-for-manufacturing software module flagging an overlapping element of the real-time manufacturing data and the design data, wherein the overlapping element meets a variance criteria.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying a user of the overlapping element.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the overlapping element comprises an identification tag of a first product part, wherein the first product part is incorporated into the first product, and wherein the identification tag of the first product part is present in the design data for the second product.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises testing data of first product.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises first product part rejection data.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the real-time manufacturing data in a manufacturing database.

7. A design-for-manufacturing system, comprising:

a collection software module, wherein the collection software module collects real-time manufacturing data for a first product; and

a design-for-manufacturing software module, wherein the design-for-manufacturing software module imports the real-time manufacturing data, wherein the design-for-manufacturing software module imports design data for a second product, wherein the design-for-manufacturing software module compares the real-time manufacturing data to the design data, and wherein the design-for-manufacturing software module flags an overlapping element of the real-time manufacturing data and the design data, and wherein the overlapping element meets a variance criteria.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein a user is notified of the overlapping element.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the overlapping element comprises an identification tag of a first product part, wherein the first product part is incorporated into the first product, and wherein the identification tag of the first product part is present in the design data for the second product.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises testing data of first product.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises first product part rejection data.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the real-time manufacturing data is stored in a manufacturing database.

13. A method, comprising:

importing real-time manufacturing data for a first product into a design-for-manufacturing software module;

importing design data for a second product into the design-for-manufacturing software module;

comparing the real-time manufacturing data to the design data; and

flagging an overlapping element of the real-time manufacturing data and the design data, wherein the overlapping element meets a variance criteria.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising notifying a user of the overlapping element.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the overlapping element comprises an identification tag of a first product part, wherein the first product part is incorporated into the first product, and wherein the identification tag of the first product part is present in the design data for the second product.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises testing data of first product.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises first product part rejection data.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising storing the real-time manufacturing data in a manufacturing database.

19. A computer-readable medium containing computer instructions for instructing a processor to perform a method of design for manufacturing, the instructions comprising:

importing real-time manufacturing data for a first product into a design-for-manufacturing software module;

importing design data for a second product into the design-for-manufacturing software module;

comparing the real-time manufacturing data to the design data; and

flagging an overlapping element of the real-time manufacturing data and the design data, wherein the overlapping element meets a variance criteria.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising notifying a user of the overlapping element.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the overlapping element comprises an identification tag of a first product part, wherein the first product part is incorporated into the first product, and wherein the identification tag of the first product part is present in the design data for the second product.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises testing data of first product.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the real-time manufacturing data comprises first product part rejection data.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising storing the real-time manufacturing data in a manufacturing database.